

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled) A method of removing coatings from portions of generally opposed first and second major surfaces of a substrate, the portions comprising a width and a depth of coatings to be removed, the method comprising: providing a table having a table surface for slidable receipt of a substrate; providing a first grinding apparatus at a mounting portion of the table; providing a second grinding apparatus at the mounting portion of the table, opposite the first grinding apparatus; moving the substrate relative to the table surface such that the portions of the first and second surfaces of the substrate contact the first and second grinding apparatuses; and removing the coating from the first surface using the first grinding apparatus while simultaneously removing coating from the second surface using the second grinding apparatus.
2. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of removing coating from the first surface with the first grinding apparatus while simultaneously removing coating from the second surface with the second grinding apparatus is performed by driving the first grinding apparatus with a first motor and driving the second grinding apparatus with a second motor.
3. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1, further including the step of removing dust produced by the grinding of the first and second surfaces.
4. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1, further including the step of adjusting a horizontal extension of the first and second grinding apparatuses to adjust the width of coatings to be removed.
5. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1, further including the step of adjusting a vertical position of the first and second grinding apparatuses to adjust the depth of coatings to be removed.
6. (Cancelled) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of adjusting the vertical position of the first and second grinding apparatuses is performed while maintaining a horizontal position of the first and second grinding apparatuses.
7. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1, wherein the table surface includes plurality of rollers for slidable receipt of the substrate.
8. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1, further including the step of positioning the substrate on the table surface.
9. (Cancelled) The method of claim 8, wherein the table includes an access recess in which an operator may stand to aid in positioning the substrate on the table surface.
10. (Cancelled) An apparatus for removing coatings from portions of first and second surfaces of a substrate, the portions comprising a width and a depth of coatings to be removed, the apparatus comprising: a support surface configured for slidable receipt of a substrate, the support surface including a mounting portion; a first grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the support surface; and a second grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the support surface, opposite the first grinding apparatus.

11. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the support surface comprises a table having a table surface.
12. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the table surface includes plurality of rollers for slidable receipt of the substrate.
13. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the rollers are spaced apart from one another.
14. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the rollers include balls and enclosures for supporting the balls.
15. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the table has an axis and the rollers are oriented to rotate about an axis that is substantially parallel with the axis of the table.
16. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the table includes an access recess.
17. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the table comprises a central section having a first end and a second end, a first end section extending from the first end of the table and a second end section extending from the second end of the table, the first end section and the second end section spaced parallel and apart from one another to form the access recess.
18. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the table surface includes a plurality of side rollers for supporting a portion of the substrate proximate the first and second grinding apparatuses.
19. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the side rollers are oriented to rotate about an axis that is substantially normal to the surface of the table.
20. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 10, further including a first motor to drive the first grinding apparatus and a second motor to drive the second grinding apparatus.
21. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the first motor and the second motor are the same motor.
22. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the first motor and the second motor are alternating current motors.
23. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 10, further including a first height adjustment mechanism to control a distance of the first grinding apparatus from the substrate a second height adjustment mechanism to control a distance of the second grinding apparatus from the substrate.
24. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the first and second height adjustment mechanisms are configured for simultaneous movement of the first and second grinding apparatuses towards or away from one another.
25. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the first and second height adjustment mechanisms each comprise two guide posts, a threaded shaft being located intermediate the guide posts and being rotatable about a central axis thereof, the first and second grinding apparatuses being operably attached to the threaded shaft such that rotation of the threaded shaft

causes the first and second grinding apparatuses to move vertically with respect to the table.

26. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the first and second height adjustment mechanisms control a distance of the first grinding apparatus from the substrate and a distance of the second grinding apparatus from the substrate while maintaining a horizontal position of the first and second grinding apparatuses.

27. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 10, further including a dust collection system.

28. (Cancelled) A method of removing coatings from a substrate, the method comprising: providing a substrate having generally opposed first and second surfaces, each surface bearing a functional coating; and simultaneously removing substantially all of the functional coating from a peripheral region of the first major surface and removing all of the functional coating from a peripheral region of the second major surface.

29. (Cancelled) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of removing the functional coating from the first and second surfaces of the substrate is performed by grinding.

30. (Cancelled) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of removing the functional coating is removed from the first surface is performed using a first grinding apparatus, and removing the functional coating from the second surface is performed using a second grinding apparatus.

31. (Cancelled) The method of claim 28, further including the steps of positioning the substrate between the first and second grinding apparatuses and simultaneously operating the grinding apparatuses.

32. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for removing coatings from portions of first and second surfaces of a substrate, the portions comprising a width and a depth of coatings to be removed, the apparatus comprising: a table having a table surface for slidable receipt of a substrate, the table including a mounting portion and an access recess for an operator; a first grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the table; a second grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the table, opposite the first grinding apparatus; and a first height adjustment mechanism to control a distance of the first grinding apparatus from the substrate and a second height adjustment mechanism to control a distance of the second grinding apparatus from the substrate.

33. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the first and second grinding apparatuses each include a grinding wheel.

34. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 10, further including a height adjustment mechanism configured such that rotation of a threaded shaft of the height adjustment mechanism in a first direction causes the first and second grinding apparatuses to move towards each other, and wherein rotation of the threaded shaft in a second direction causes the first and second grinding apparatuses to move apart from each other.

35. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 10, further including a height adjustment mechanism configured such that rotation of a threaded shaft of the height adjustment mechanism causes vertical movement of the first and second grinding apparatuses directly along a vertical axis, with no horizontal component to said vertical movement.

36. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said first and second surfaces of the substrate are generally opposed major surfaces, the first and second grinding apparatuses being adapted to simultaneously remove coating from said first and second surfaces of the substrate.
37. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein a single height adjustment mechanism is provided to control distances of both grinding apparatuses from the substrate.
38. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein a plurality of spaced-apart rollers are mounted on the table, and rollers on a region of the table proximate the grinding apparatuses are spaced more closely together than rollers further from the grinding apparatus.
39. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein mounted on the table are both ball rollers and side rollers.
40. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the table has a plurality of side rollers mounted along an edge of the table, said edge being adjacent the grinding apparatuses.
41. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein side rollers are spaced apart along an entire length of said table edge.
42. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein a plurality of side rollers proximate the grinding apparatuses are spaced more closely together than side rollers further from the grinding apparatuses.
43. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the first grinding apparatus is configured for removing coating from a periphery of said first surface of the substrate, the second grinding apparatus being configured for removing coating from a periphery of said second surface of a substrate.
44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for removing coatings from portions of first and second surfaces of a substrate, the portions comprising a width and a depth of coatings to be removed, the apparatus comprising: a table having a mounting portion and a table surface configured for slidable receipt of a substrate, the table surface including a plurality of rollers for slidable receipt of the substrate, the rollers being spaced apart from one another and including balls and enclosures for supporting the balls; a first grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the table; and a second grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the table, opposite the first grinding apparatus.
45. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for removing coatings from portions of first and second surfaces of a substrate, the portions comprising a width and a depth of coatings to be removed, the apparatus comprising: a table having a mounting portion and a table surface configured for slidable receipt of a substrate, the table surface having an axis and including a plurality of rollers for slidable receipt of the substrate, the rollers being spaced apart from one another and being oriented to rotate about an axis that is substantially parallel with the axis of the table surface; a first grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the table; and a second grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the table, opposite the first grinding apparatus.
46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for removing coatings from portions of first and second surfaces of a substrate, the portions comprising a width and a depth of coatings to be

removed, the apparatus comprising: a table having a mounting portion and a table surface configured for slidable receipt of a substrate, the table including an access recess; a first grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the table; and a second grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the table, opposite the first grinding apparatus.

47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the table comprises a central section having a first end and a second end, a first end section extending from the first end of the table and a second end section extending from the second end of the table, the first end section and the second end section spaced parallel and apart from one another to form the access recess.

48. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for removing coatings from portions of first and second surfaces of a substrate, the portions comprising a width and a depth of coatings to be removed, the apparatus comprising: a table having a mounting portion and a table surface configured for slidable receipt of a substrate, the table surface including a plurality of side rollers for supporting a portion of the substrate proximate the first and second grinding apparatuses; a first grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the table; and a second grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the table, opposite the first grinding apparatus.

49. (Previously Presented) An apparatus of claim 48, wherein the side rollers are oriented to rotate about an axis that is substantially normal to the surface of the table.

50. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for removing coatings from portions of first and second surfaces of a substrate, the portions comprising a width and a depth of coatings to be removed, the apparatus comprising: a support surface configured for slidable receipt of a substrate, the support surface including a mounting portion; a first grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the support surface; a second grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the support surface, opposite the first grinding apparatus; and a motor to drive both the first and second grinding apparatuses.

51. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for removing coatings from portions of first and second surfaces of a substrate, the portions comprising a width and a depth of coatings to be removed, the apparatus comprising: a support surface configured for slidable receipt of a substrate, the support surface including a mounting portion; a first grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the support surface; a second grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the support surface, opposite the first grinding apparatus; and a first height adjustment mechanism to control a distance of the first grinding apparatus from the substrate and a second height adjustment mechanism to control a distance of the second grinding apparatus from the substrate, wherein the first and second height adjustment mechanisms are configured for simultaneous movement of the first and second grinding apparatuses toward or away from one another.

52. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for removing coatings from portions of first and second surfaces of a substrate, the portions comprising a width and a depth of coatings to be removed, the apparatus comprising: a support surface configured for slidable receipt of a substrate, the support surface including a mounting portion; a first grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the support surface; a second grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the support surface, opposite the first grinding apparatus; and a first height adjustment mechanism to control a distance of the first grinding apparatus from the substrate and a second height adjustment mechanism to control a distance of the second grinding apparatus from the substrate, wherein the first and second height adjustment mechanisms each comprises

two guide posts, a threaded shaft being located intermediate the guide posts and being rotatable about a central axis thereof, the first and second grinding apparatuses being operably attached to the threaded shaft such that rotation of the threaded shaft causes the first and second grinding apparatuses to move vertically with respect to the table.

53. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for removing coatings from portions of first and second surfaces of a substrate, the portions comprising a width and a depth of coatings to be removed, the apparatus comprising: a support surface configured for slidable receipt of a substrate, the support surface including a mounting portion; a first grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the support surface; a second grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the support surface, opposite the first grinding apparatus; and a first height adjustment mechanism to control a distance of the first grinding apparatus from the substrate and a second height adjustment mechanism to control a distance of the second grinding apparatus from the substrate, wherein the first and second height adjustment mechanisms control a distance of the first grinding apparatus from the substrate and a distance of the second grinding apparatus from the substrate while maintaining a horizontal position of the first and second grinding apparatuses.

54. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for removing coatings from portions of first and second surfaces of a substrate, the portions comprising a width and a depth of coatings to be removed, the apparatus comprising: a support surface configured for slidable receipt of a substrate, the support surface including a mounting portion; a first grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the support surface; a second grinding apparatus mounted at the mounting portion of the support surface, opposite the first grinding apparatus; and a dust collection system.

REMARKS

Claims 10-27 and 32-54 are pending in the present application. By this amendment, claims 10-27 and 33-43 are cancelled. Following entry of this Amendment, twelve (12) claims will be pending (claims 32 and 44-54) of which ten (10) are independent (claims 32, 44, 45, 46, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53 and 54). No new matter will be incorporated into the present application by entry of this Amendment. If the Office determines that any additional fees are deemed to be necessary with the filing of this Amendment, then the Office is authorized and requested to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 061910.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner: rejected claims 10-13, 20, 22, 23 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 4,630,407 to Rhodes; allowed claims 32 and 44-54; and objected to claims 14-19, 21, 24-27 and 33-42 as being dependant upon a

rejected base claim, but otherwise allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

The present Amendment is being filed with a view toward obtaining the allowance of claims at the earliest possible date. Applicant maintains that the original claims are patentably distinct over the cited art. Therefore, Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the original claims and/or other similar claims in further prosecution.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 32 and 44-54 are allowed. All the other pending claims have been cancelled, thus rendering moot the outstanding rejections and objections. In view of this, favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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